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FOR RELEASE
AUG. 11, A.M.

THE Poultry and Egg SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PES-166 BAE JULY-AUGUST 1953

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, August 5, 1953

SUMMARY

The supply of eggs for the rest of 1953 is expected to be about the same, per person, as in the last half of 1952. Production is likely to exceed the record fall level of 1952 since the number of layers is expected to be at or above 1952 levels and the rate of lay higher. However, part of the gain in output will be offset by the reduction in storage holdings of shell eggs which were the smallest of record on July 1. These supply prospects indicate that prices to farmers in the last half of 1953 will be closer to 1952 levels than was the case in the first half of 1953.

With fewer layers on farms, egg production in February-May was about 1.5 million cases, 2 percent, less than in the same period of 1952. Prices received by farmers averaged 10 cents or more per dozen higher. By mid-year, however, the number of layers on farms was about the same as a year earlier and production was up slightly. Prices to farmers in mid-July averaged 47.7 cents per dozen compared with 43.3 cents at the same time in 1952.

Despite the favorable egg-feed price ratio this spring, farmers raised no more chickens for laying flock replacement than last year. The preliminary estimate of chickens raised shows 615 million for 1953 against 617 million in 1952. Because of the steady trend toward greater output per bird this very slight decrease is not likely to reduce 1954 egg production from 1953 levels.

Broiler marketings are continuing high, reflecting the heavy chick placements of 9-12 weeks ago. Placements are turning downward, probably because of the seasonal shortage of hatching eggs. Broiler prices received by farmers in mid-July averaged 28.2 cents per pound compared with 26.2 in June and 29.3 cents in July 1952.

Supplies of farm chickens, mainly by-products from egg production, are increasing seasonally. Mid-July prices received by farmers, 22.7 cents per pound, were about the same as in the previous month and almost a cent above a year ago.

Turkey hatchings to July were 13 percent below last year. On July 1 cold storage holdings remaining from the 1952 crop were 52 million pounds, 4 million less than a year earlier, but 9 million pounds above average.

THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION AT A GLANCE

Item	Unit	Month or date	Average 1942-51	1952	1953	Month or date	Average 1942-51	1952	1953	Comments on current situation
EGGS										
Farm production	Mil. doz.	May	508.7	494.8	489.3	June	424.6	415.9	420.9	Likely to exceed 1952 for balance of year
Average number of layers on farms	Millions	May	342.1	323.9	319.7	June	323.1	306.2	304.4	
Rate of lay per 100 layers	Eggs	May	17.9	18.3	18.4	June	15.8	16.3	16.6	
Apparent civilian per capita disappearance	Eggs	May	31.8	34.8	34.2	June	29.4	31.8	30.5	For last half of 1953, will probably be near 1952 level
Frozen egg production	Mil. lb.	May	79.6	62.8	59.8	June	53.2	42.3	46.5	
Dried egg production	Mil. lb.	May	16.7	2.0	2.5	June	15.5	1.4	1.9	
Price received by farmers	Ct. per doz.	June	36.4	35.7	45.7	July	39.0	43.3	47.7	Difference narrowing between 1952 and 1953 prices
Price received by farmers as a percentage of parity	Percent	June	97	78	107	July	95	88	102	
Egg-feed price ratio	Lb. feed	June	11.0	8.5	11.8	July	11.5	10.3	12.3	
Stocks:										
Shell	Thous. cases	June 1	5,466	3,184	1,431	July 1	6,241	3,357	1,523	Near season peak
Frozen	Mil. lb.	June 1	218.0	145.9	132.3	July 1	252.6	166.4	159.7	Near season peak
Chicks hatched by commercial hatcheries	Millions	May	252.2	216.0	237.5	June	119.2	116.6	136.3	Main hatching season for laying flock replacement now ended
Young chickens on farms	Millions	June	566.7	484.7	469.3	July 1	570.3	462.9	461.6	
Farm price of poultry ration	Dol. per cwt.	June	3.38	4.21	3.86	July	3.45	4.18	3.83	
POULTRY										
Price received by farmers for chickens, live										
Broilers	Ct. per lb.	June	30.1	26.8	26.2	July	30.1	29.3	28.2	Feed price declined from last year, and offsets slightly lower broiler price
Farm chickens	Ct. per lb.	June	25.3	21.7	22.8	July	25.6	21.8	22.7	
All chickens	Ct. per lb.	June	26.9	24.9	24.9	July	27.1	26.4	26.1	
Price received by farmers for all chickens as a percentage of parity	Percent	June	111	77	82	July	113	82	85	
Price received by farmers for turkeys, live	Ct. per lb.	June	30.6	32.3	31.7	July	31.4	31.9	32.3	Smaller crop being grown this year
Stocks:										
Poultry, excluding turkeys	Mil. lb.	June 1	70.4	122.4	63.8	July 1	67.8	118.0	65.4	
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	June 1	47.8	63.3	59.7	July 1	40.9	56.1	52.3	
Chicken-feed price ratio	Lb. feed	June	8.1	5.9	6.5	July	8.0	6.2	6.8	
Turkey-feed price ratio	Lb. feed	June	9.2	7.7	8.2	July	9.2	7.6	8.4	
Average weekly placement of chicks in 11 broiler areas	Millions	June	---	12.1	13.6	July	---	11.0	12.2	Will decline seasonally for next few months

SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Farmers' July Egg Price Somewhat Above 1952

Farmers' mid-July average price for eggs, 47.7 cents, was less than 5 cents above the July 1952 price of 43.3 cents per dozen. This contrasts sharply with the previous 6 months, when 1953 prices were mostly 10 to 12 cents higher than in the corresponding months of 1952.

Supplies in prospect for most of the remainder of 1953, indicate that farmers' egg prices are likely to continue fairly close to year ago levels. Egg production in the remaining months of 1953 will likely exceed that of the same months of 1952. During the spring the opposite was true, though the reduction from last year was small. Because of high prices early in the spring, egg breakers got off to a slow start, and the total accumulation of shell eggs in storage was the smallest since 1916, when records began.

In late June 1952, abnormally hot weather cut both the quantity and the quality of the egg output and resulted in a sharper-than-usual seasonal price increase of 7.6 cents from mid-June to mid-July. The change this year was an increase of 2.0 cents. Rises later in the summer are not expected to be above average. With 1953 mid-July prices received by farmers averaging less than 5 cents above 1952, the monthly prices in the rest of 1953 are likely to be fairly close to the corresponding 1952 figures.

Egg Production for Rest of Year Likely to be Record for Season

On July 1, the number of layers on farms slightly exceeded the figure of a year earlier while the number of young chickens on farms was about the same. Despite the smaller number of early-season replacement chicks that were started this spring, these 2 figures suggest that for the rest of 1953 and into 1954 the number of layers will be about the same as, or perhaps slightly above, a year earlier.

If current trends continue, these layers will produce more eggs per bird than last years' layers.

In August and thereafter, the rise in rate of lay per bird (compared with the same month a year earlier) is particularly apparent. If the trend (which is graphed in the March 1950 Situation) continues this year, the rate of lay for the last half of 1953 would increase about 3 percent over the same period of 1952. With the number of layers little different from last year, an increase in rate of lay will result in an equivalent increase in total egg production over the record of July-December 1952.

It is significant that the great gains in annual egg output result from increases in the rate of lay in the third and fourth quarters of the year. This has evened out the supply through the year, tending to reduce seasonal price fluctuations and the incentive for shell egg storage.

Table 1 .- Eggs: Selected farm, wholesale, and retail prices, per dozen, June-July 1953, with comparisons

Date	Farm prices			Wholesale prices				Retail prices		Futures contracts, Chicago, October delivery 4/
		Iowa 2/		Chicago	New York		San Francisco		New York	
	U. S. average 1/	Current receipts	Grade A, large	Large extras, mixed colors	Midwestern large extras, mixed colors	Nearby whites, fancy, heavy weights	Grade A, large (cases)	U. S. average (BAE) 1/	whites, Grade A and AA, large and extra large 3/	
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1952										
June										
6		28-29	31-33	40-40½	40½-41	44-44½	44-45½		59.00	44.65
13		29-30	33	38-39	40½	45-45½	46½-47½		59.00	44.15
20	35.7	28-29	32-34	38½-39½	40½-41	48-48½	46½-47½	54.0	61.00	44.95
27		29-30	34-35	42-44½	41½-42	53	49½-50½		61.00	45.65
July										
3		30-31	35-38	46-46½	44	60	54½-55½		68.00	47.10
11		32-34	41-43	50½-52	47-48	70	60½-61½		75.00	49.00
18	43.3	35-37	45-47	56-58	51½	63-63½	64½-65½	66.3	85.00	49.75
25		37-38	45-46	51-52½	50	55-55½	62½-63½		83.00	49.00
Aug.										
1		36-37	44-46	52-53½	51½-52	61	60½-61½		77.30	49.90
8		35-37	45-46	51-52	51½-52	65	60½-61½		79.00	49.25
15	48.2	35-37	47-50	55½-57	56	71	63½-64½	68.8	81.00	49.85
22		35-37	47-50	53-54½	55	72	63½-64½		87.00	48.10
29		35-37	47-50	54-56½	52	64	63½-64½		88.00	47.30
1953										
June										
5		37-38	42-43	49-50	52	58	54½-55½		69.00	51.50
12		37-38	44-45	52-53	52-53	60	55½-56½		75.00	52.50
19	45.7	37-38	44-46	51½-52	52-53	60½-61	56½-57½		77.00	52.40
26		5/37-40	45-46	50½-51	52-53	62½-63	56½-57½		79.00	52.20
July										
3		37-39	44-45	50½-51	54½	60	59½-60½		81.00	51.50
10		37-38	43-45	51½-52½	54	58	59½-60½		81.00	50.90
17	47.7	37-38	44-45	55-55½	55	65	62½-63½		77.00	52.00
24		37-40	45-46	54½-55	55-56½	67½	65½-66½		83.00	52.50
31		37-40	45-47	53-53½	56½	66½				51.80

1/ Middle of month. 2/ "Mostly". 3/ Average for the week. 4/ In 1952, this contract closed at 40.30 cents per dozen. 5/ Range of prices; not "mostly".

Table 2 .- Chicken numbers, egg production, and egg prices, monthly, 1951 to date

Item	Unit	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June
Layers on hand first of month							
1951	Million	380	372	364	346	329	311
1952	do.	391	381	370	351	333	315
1953	do.	383	370	358	344	329	311
Average number of eggs per 100 layers during the month:							
1951	Number	1,347	1,405	1,735	1,789	1,838	1,664
1952	do.	1,395	1,510	1,773	1,799	1,833	1,630
1953	do.	1,447	1,463	1,794	1,811	1,837	1,659
Eggs produced on farms							
1951	Million cases	14.1	14.4	17.1	16.8	16.3	14.1
1952	do.	14.9	15.7	17.7	17.1	16.5	13.9
1953	do.	15.1	14.8	17.5	16.9	16.3	14.0
Average price per dozen received by farmers for eggs							
1951	Cents	42.6	41.4	43.7	43.2	45.2	44.7
1952	do.	40.5	34.7	34.0	35.2	34.2	35.7
1953	do.	45.8	42.0	44.7	45.5	45.9	45.7
Young chickens on farms first of month 1/							
1951	Million				201	406	523
1952	do.				218	382	485
1953	do.				215	380	469

Item	Unit	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Layers on hand first of month							
1951	Million	297	285	297	336	369	385
1952	do.	297	290	303	342	367	382
1953	do.	298					
Average number of eggs per 100 layers during the month:							
1951	Number	1,561	1,413	1,246	1,202	1,153	1,235
1952	do.	1,516	1,401	1,273	1,243	1,205	1,324
1953	do.						
Eggs produced on farms							
1951	Million cases	12.6	11.4	10.9	11.7	12.0	13.2
1952	do.	12.3	11.5	11.3	12.1	12.4	14.0
1953	do.						
Average price per dozen received by farmers for eggs							
1951	Cents	46.6	49.6	55.0	55.6	56.5	51.1
1952	do.	43.3	48.2	48.7	50.3	51.9	46.6
1953	do.	47.7					
Young chickens on farms first of month 1/							
1951	Million	508	294	254	172	101	55
1952	do.	463	281	220	139	80	42
1953	do.	462					

1/ Beginning August 1, pullets not yet of laying age.

Table 3.- Eggs: Annual production on farms, by quarters and cumulatively, 1940 to date

Year	Quarterly				Cumulatively		
	Jan.-Mar.	Apr.-June	July-Sept.	Oct.-Dec.	Jan.-June	Jan.-Sept.	Jan.-Dec.
	Mil. cases	Mil. cases	Mil. cases	Mil. cases	Mil. cases	Mil. cases	Mil. cases
1940	28	39	25	18	68	92	111
1941	31	39	26	21	70	96	116
1942	36	46	30	24	82	111	135
1943	42	52	33	25	93	126	152
1944	47	54	34	27	101	135	163
1945	44	51	34	27	95	129	156
1946	45	50	31	29	96	127	155
1947	44	48	32	29	92	124	154
1948	42	47	33	31	89	121	153
1949	43	45	32	35	89	121	156
1950	46	47	35	35	94	128	163
1951	46	47	35	37	93	128	165
1952	48	47	35	39	96	131	169
1953	47	47			95		

Chickens Raised About Same as Last Year

Farmers are raising 615 million chickens this year for laying flock replacement, according to a preliminary estimate. This is about the same as the 1952 figure of 617 million, which is the third lowest figure since 1937 (table 5).

Farmers are now saving more pullets as layers from each 100 chickens they raise, and they get much greater egg production per pullet. As a result the egg production potential of the 1953 flock is far beyond what would be indicated by comparing the 1953 number of chickens raised with the historical record.

One of the important innovations is the practice of sexing chicks--separating the pullets from the cockerels shortly after hatching. Many commercial egg producers raise only the pullets, which practically doubles the number of potential layers such producers save per 100 chickens raised. In 1953, farmers intended to buy 38 percent of their chicks (exclusive of broiler chicks) as sexed pullets, compared with 37 percent in 1952, and 17 percent in 1943. For the months March, April, and May of this year, a sample of reporting hatcheries indicated that the monthly numbers of chicks sexed were respectively 7, 14, and 24 percent above last year.

The steady increase in egg production per layer also must be considered when making comparisons which span a long period. In 1952 the number of eggs produced per hen and pullet on farms January 1 was 145, compared with about 114 ten years earlier. Over the same 10 years, production per layer during the year rose from 142 to 178. Percentage increases in the rate of lay per bird have been nearly the same as recent population increases in the U. S., so increases in rate of lay have offset population increases, and expanded laying flocks have resulted in increased per capita egg supplies.

Current data suggest that the size of the January 1, 1954 flock of potential layers will be the same as or slightly larger than on January 1, 1953. The size of this flock will govern egg production for the first 9 or 10 months of 1954. If the number of chickens raised next year stabilizes at around the level of 1952 and 1953, the seasonal distribution of the 1954 egg production should be similar to that expected this year, with record fall output following a relatively small spring-time production. Assuming a continued increase in rate of lay, it is likely to result in a per capita egg supply for 1954 not significantly different from the 395 eggs per capita now forseen for 1953.

Table 4.- Young chickens on farms first of month, April 1953 to date and chickens raised, 1953, by regions

Item	Unit	Region						United States
		North Atlantic	East North Central	West North Central	South Atlantic	South Central	Western	
		(a) As a percentage of previous year						
Young chickens on farms first of month, 1953								
April	Percent							98.8
May	do.							99.6
June	do.							96.8
July	do.							99.7
Chickens raised for laying flock replacement, for the season, 1953 1/	do.	103.2	101.5	103.3	94.5	93.6	97.9	99.7
		(b) Reported numbers						
Chickens raised								
1952	Million	106.1	117.8	151.8	67.3	112.8	61.2	617.0
1953 1/	do.	109.5	119.6	156.7	63.7	105.5	60.0	615.0

1/ Preliminary.

Table 5.- Chickens raised, and related factors indicating egg-laying potential, 1930 to date

Year	Chickens raised	Sexed pullets as a percentage of farmers' chick purchases 1/	Potential layers on hand, Jan. 1 following			Pullets Jan. 1 following as a percentage of chickens raised	Eggs laid during the year per hen and pullet on farms Jan. 1 2/	Index of egg production per chicken raised (1935-39=100) 3/
			Pullets laying and not yet laying	Hens	Total			
	Mil.	Percent	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Percent	Number	
1930	777.0		243.6	158.2	401.8	31.4	93	93
1931	709.4		229.6	156.2	385.8	32.4	96	89
1932	735.5		236.7	154.0	390.7	32.2	94	91
1933	750.1		238.3	147.0	385.3	31.8	91	86
1934	644.4		211.8	138.6	350.4	32.9	89	82
1935	658.3		226.4	136.2	362.6	34.4	96	93
1936	715.0		249.3	130.4	379.8	34.9	95	93
1937	601.1		215.0	138.0	353.0	35.8	99	95
1938	650.7		241.8	134.3	376.1	37.2	106	111
1939	696.7		253.6	139.1	392.7	36.4	103	107
1940	633.7		239.9	141.4	381.3	37.9	101	102
1941	745.0		277.7	150.2	427.9	37.3	110	118
1942	844.3	21	318.6	170.3	489.0	37.7	114	116
1943	1,001.4	17	349.6	174.0	523.6	34.9	112	116
1944	832.1	20	301.5	172.4	473.9	36.2	112	104
1945	890.4	18	322.1	150.7	472.8	36.2	119	121
1946	737.6	22	281.0	150.5	431.4	38.1	118	112
1947	719.4	26	278.0	139.6	417.6	38.6	128	134
1948	615.1	30	258.3	141.0	399.4	42.0	131	136
1949	705.1	31	286.8	137.0	423.8	40.7	141	162
1950	635.1	32	263.9	146.3	410.2	41.6	139	148
1951	663.5	33	276.1	143.7	419.9	41.6	144	166
1952 4/	617.0	37	254.6	151.0	405.6	41.3	145	164
1953 4/	615.0							

1/ Exclusive of broiler chicks.

2/ Note that this column does not correspond to the preceding column which relates to "--- Jan. 1 following."

3/ Essentially, eggs laid per chicken raised the previous year as a percentage of 1935-39 average.

4/ Preliminary.

Smaller Storage Stocks of Shell Eggs;
Frozen Stocks near 1952 Level

The unusually high prices of eggs in the spring of 1953 discouraged the accumulation of shell eggs for storage, and are a factor in the low holdings July 1 this year. (They are the smallest for the month since reports were begun in 1916.) But holdings of frozen egg, 160 million pounds, were within 4 percent of a year earlier. The frozen egg stocks on July 1 were 73 percent of the total combined stocks of shell and frozen. 1/

Weekly reports from 35 cities have shown net withdrawals of shell eggs since July 1, suggesting that the 1953 peak of holdings for that commodity has passed. For frozen egg, however, further net improvements occurred in the first few weeks of July. In 3 of the past 6 years, August 1 has been the date of highest first-of-month holdings of frozen egg.

While stocks of frozen egg on July 1 were 7 million pounds less than in 1952, production of frozen and liquid egg to date in 1953 has been greater than in the same months of last year. The apparent consumption of liquid and frozen egg also has been ahead of last year. Stocks at the beginning of 1953 were very low, while a year earlier they were large. For the apparent monthly disappearance of frozen and liquid egg, compared with last year and the year before, see table 7, which supersedes a similar table published in the last issue of The Poultry and Egg Situation.

With the seasonal swings in egg production evening out, as shown in table 3, and price variations reduced, profit opportunities through storage operations for shell eggs have become more limited. While shell egg storage has been declining, commercial storage of frozen eggs has been trending upward. Storage of frozen egg has been encouraged by its easy adaptation to specialized uses, the relatively low cost of storage (with risk of quality deterioration almost negligible compared with storage of shell), and the fact that prices of the stored frozen product are not discounted in relation to the freshly-prepared product as are prices of shell eggs.

Dried eggs for commercial outlets have not yet supplanted other forms of processing or storage as a large-scale stabilizer of the seasonal variations in egg supply. Of course, egg-drying operations are concentrated into the first half of the year to take advantage of seasonally low prices for the raw material, but the 10 million pounds of dried egg produced in January-June this year were made from 1.0 million cases of eggs, while the equivalent of 7.4 million cases were frozen, and 1.5 million cases were stored in the shell.

Good Demand for Broilers:
Chicken Marketings Large,
Storage Holdings Half of Last Year

Broiler prices in mid-July were quite favorable to producers, 2 cents higher than a month earlier and about the same as the average for all of 1952.

1/ Converted at the rate of 38.5 pounds of frozen egg to a case of shell eggs.

Prices of feed, the principal cost of production, have declined enough since last fall to reduce broiler production costs by 1 to 2 cents per pound. With the July 1 outlook for above average feed grain production, a large carryover in prospect, and a reduced grain-consuming livestock population, feed prices are likely to hold favorable to buyers.

The prompt recovery in broiler prices from June to mid-July indicates that a good demand exists, despite large beef supplies, seasonally increasing marketings of farm chickens, and low prices for fresh small turkeys. Partly offsetting these competitive factors is the reduction in pork supplies.

Table 6.- Shell and frozen eggs in refrigerated storage, June 1953, with comparisons

Date	Shell eggs			Frozen eggs			Shell and frozen combined 1/		
	1951	1952	1953	1951	1952	1953	1951	1952	1953
	Thous. cases	Thous. cases	Thous. cases	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Thous. cases	Thous. cases	Thous. cases
				Total U. S. stocks					
January 1	34	141	153	47	67	50	1,263	1,886	1,456
February 1	75	238	120	31	53	35	884	1,616	1,029
March 1	159	942	248	33	61	42	1,009	2,515	1,350
April 1	309	1,596	375	62	84	65	1,927	3,785	2,069
May 1	973	2,184	816	109	111	99	3,811	5,072	3,387
June 1	2,083	3,184	1,431	163	146	132	6,308	6,973	4,867
July 1	2,427	3,357	1,523	190	166	160	7,362	7,680	5,671
August 1	2,270	2,728		191	163		7,226	6,971	
September 1	1,615	2,169		176	144		6,194	5,918	
October 1	958	1,709		151	124		4,888	4,921	
November 1	527	1,000		122	95		3,685	3,476	
December 1	230	393		95	72		2,701	2,275	
				Stocks in 35 principal cities 2/					
June 20	1,607	2,509	1,050	104	96	85	4,303	4,991	3,245
27	1,628	2,496	1,054	106	98	88	4,371	5,054	3,338
July 4	1,642	2,438	1,047	109	101	91	4,478	5,063	3,405
11	1,621	2,349	1,033	110	102	91	4,473	4,988	3,404
18	1,582	2,213	991	109	102	91	4,423	4,852	3,348
25	1,545	2,095	935	109	100	89	4,378	4,691	3,240
Aug. 1	1,508	2,027	859	107	98	88	4,283	4,571	3,134
8	1,457	1,930		106	97		4,201	4,443	
15	1,356	1,843		104	95		4,056	4,308	
22	1,268	1,728		102	92		3,925	4,113	
29	1,143	1,648		100	89		3,748	3,962	

1/ Frozen egg converted at 38.5 pounds, equivalent to 1 case.
2/ Given dates are for 1953; for other years, corresponding Saturdays.

Table 7.- Frozen and liquid egg: Production, storage stocks, disappearance, and price, monthly, January 1951 to date

Month	Production: Total liquid egg	Production: Dried egg 1/	Stocks: Total net, for use as liquid or frozen	Stocks: Total reported, beginning of month	Net change during month	Presumed disappearance: net production of liquid and frozen egg adjusted for changes in stocks	Average price in New York City: Mixed whole	Yolk	Albumen
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Cents	Cents	Cents
1951									
Jan.	22.7	5.3	17.4	47.3	-16.1	33.5	34.7	55.0	2/21.5
Feb.	34.7	6.5	28.2	31.2	1.5	26.7	34.6	55.5	22.8
Mar.	77.0	8.0	69.0	32.7	29.6	39.4	35.8	56.9	25.6
Apr.	83.7	8.0	75.7	62.3	47.0	28.7	36.3	56.8	25.5
May	87.5	10.6	76.9	109.3	53.4	23.5	38.1	61.1	26.7
June	49.6	8.0	41.6	162.7	27.3	14.3	36.8	61.7	25.2
July	22.5	1.9	20.6	190.0	0.8	19.8	36.5	61.4	24.6
Aug.	13.7	1.2	12.5	190.8	-14.5	27.0	36.4	61.0	24.8
Sept.	7.6	0.7	6.9	176.3	-25.0	31.9	36.5	60.5	26.1
Oct.	4.3	.2	4.1	151.3	-29.7	33.8	36.5	60.6	26.4
Nov.	3.1	.1	3.0	121.6	-26.5	29.5	35.5	61.0	26.0
Dec.	2.3	.3	2.0	95.1	-27.9	29.9	35.5	61.4	27.9
1952									
Jan.	23.3	3.9	19.4	67.2	-14.1	33.5	31.7	60.2	25.0
Feb.	48.2	7.2	41.0	53.1	7.5	33.5	29.0	50.9	20.2
Mar.	62.7	6.1	56.6	60.5	23.7	32.9	28.2	51.2	17.4
Apr.	63.7	5.8	57.9	84.3	26.9	31.0	28.8	52.4	17.6
May	71.1	5.6	65.5	111.2	34.7	30.8	29.3	51.8	19.4
June	47.9	4.6	43.3	145.9	20.5	22.8	30.7	50.6	22.7
July	21.8	4.1	17.7	166.4	-3.0	20.7	32.7	51.5	3/31.9
Aug.	12.1	1.4	10.7	163.4	-19.1	29.8	32.8	53.0	30.9
Sept.	11.0	1.2	9.8	144.3	-20.6	30.4	31.4	52.1	29.5
Oct.	7.0	1.2	5.8	123.7	-28.4	34.2	31.0	51.2	30.6
Nov.	6.0	1.2	4.8	95.3	-22.8	27.6	33.1	47.8	33.1
Dec.	6.6	1.2	5.4	72.5	-22.3	27.7	35.1	46.6	34.7
1953									
Jan.	20.5	.8	19.7	50.2	-15.2	34.9	32.8	46.5	35.3
Feb.	45.3	3.4	41.9	35.0	7.4	34.5	35.0	47.1	34.3
Mar.	71.7	6.7	65.0	42.4	22.8	42.2	36.9	50.1	32.3
Apr.	70.6	6.5	64.1	65.2	35.8	30.3	38.2	52.2	32.6
May	70.2	7.5	62.7	99.0	33.3	30.4	39.2	55.8	33.8
June	55.2	6.0	49.2	132.3	27.4	15.9	38.1	55.1	32.6
July				159.7			38.1	54.9	30.7

1/ Liquid weight of eggs dried, excluding dried egg produced from frozen egg.
2/ Based on only 5 days quotations. 3/ Carlots not quoted. Price given is L.C.L.

Weekly placements of broilers in the reporting areas are declining from what had been the highest sustained level ever achieved. The decline probably will continue, since the number of eggs suitable for hatching goes down in the late summer and fall. However, the number of chicks already placed assures large broiler supplies through September.

Farm chickens, of which marketings are increasing seasonally, are being sold at prices very slightly higher than a year ago. The July mid-month average was 22.7 cents per pound, 0.9 cents above last July but seasonally lower by 1.6 cents, than the January-June 1953 average of 24.3 cents. Hens are selling at significantly stronger prices than young chickens. A factor in the present price of farm chickens has been the reduction of storage stocks of fowl to a very low level.

July 1 storage stocks of chickens 2/ were 58 million pounds, about in line with the 5-year average of 67 million pounds, but little more than half of the 108 million pounds reported for July 1, 1952. The July 1 holdings probably were near the season low, which last year was not reported until September 1. For the 35 cities, the low of holdings of [total poultry excluding turkeys] was the last week in June.

Fewer Turkeys Raised, but
Storage Stocks Continue Large

Poult production in reporting hatcheries the first half of 1953 was 13 percent below last year. But on July 1, the number of turkey eggs in incubators was 3 percent larger than last year. Hatchings in the last month or 2 have been nearer last year's rate than those at the beginning of the season. The hatching season for heavy-breed turkeys, which comprised 75 percent of last year's crop, is now over. The output of all turkeys this year will fall below the record 60-million-bird crop of 1952.

Even with the Government purchase and diversion of 6 percent of the 1952 crop, the resulting 33.7 cent average price per pound received in October-December was unsatisfactory to producers. Consequently, an industry group meeting at the invitation of the Department of Agriculture recommended a 12-15 percent decline this year in output of heavy-breed turkeys. The Department of Agriculture preliminary report on turkeys raised is scheduled for release August 21.

Early-season indications were that the percentage cut in numbers of light-breed turkeys would be greater than for heavy breeds. But weekly hatchery reports for the Shenandoah Valley indicate that recent egg settings there have been ahead of last year, reversing the situation that prevailed during the first 4 or 5 months of 1953. The Valley, in Virginia and West Virginia, is probably the site of the largest concentration of light-breed turkeys in the U. S.

The effect of the prospective reduction in the total crop on the fall price outlook for turkey producers may be partly offset by the above-average turkey stocks remaining in cold storage. At 52 million pounds on July 1, these holdings were 4 million pounds lower than last year, but 9 million pounds higher than the 5-year average.

2/ "Total poultry minus turkeys and ducks."

Table 8.- Broilers and fryers: Mid-month f.o.b. farm prices, per pound, live, in selected areas, selected dates, January-July 1953

Area	Weight or class	1953						
		Jan. 15	Feb. 15	Mar. 15	Apr. 15	May 15	June 15	July 15
		Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Del-Mar-Va	Under 3 lbs.	28	27½-28	26-26½	27-28	25½-26½	24½-25 3/4	1/30-31
Boston area	3½-4½ lbs.	25-27	24-30	23-24	2/24-26	22-24½	22-24½	26-30
Shenandoah Valley	Broilers or fryers	26-27	27	27½-27½	26-27	24-25½	24-25	29
North Georgia	Under 3½ lbs.	26½-28	26-27	27	26-27½	---	25-25½	27.2
Arkansas	All weights	26	26	27-28	28	25-26	25-26	27-28
Texas	Broilers or fryers	26-27	26	29-30	28-29½	27-29	27-28	29-30
San Joaquin Valley	Fryers	31-33	28-30	29-31	27-29	26½-28	24-25	27-30
Iowa 3/	2½ lbs. and up	26-28	26-28	27-28	28-29	27-29	26-27	26-27
U. S. average farm price 4/	Broilers	28.2	27.9	28.2	28.1	27.2	26.2	28.2
		Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
Average weekly chick placements 5/		11.3	12.2	12.6	12.7	13.7	14.2	14.3

1/ Broilers, 3½ pounds and under.
2/ Broilers, 3¼ pounds and under.
3/ Friday of given week.
4/ At mid-month.
5/ 9-12 weeks previous in all specialized areas.

Table 9.- Broilers: Monthly averages of weekly placements, specified reporting areas, 1952 and 1953 to date

Area	Average number of weekly placements											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Thou-sands	Thou-sands	Thou-sands	Thou-sands	Thou-sands	Thou-sands	Thou-sands	Thou-sands	Thou-sands	Thou-sands	Thou-sands	Thou-sands
						(a) 1952						
E. Conn.	338	452	360	368	355	284	283	245	222	255	328	309
Del-Mar-Va	2,881	3,671	3,162	2,447	2,433	2,129	2,280	2,028	2,354	2,551	2,786	3,280
Shen. Valley	751	956	1,023	928	824	763	762	706	623	654	859	867
N. Car. (Cent-West)	874	984	1,023	1,011	946	807	831	785	745	626	814	845
Georgia	2,357	2,792	2,813	2,632	2,411	2,046	2,114	2,005	2,042	2,166	2,093	2,101
Arkansas	1,300	1,344	1,283	1,135	958	858	885	759	691	818	836	1,046
Texas	1,447	1,611	1,587	1,456	1,300	1,108	1,064	1,002	1,004	1,211	1,372	1,279
Alabama	477	554	569	611	561	444	381	405	435	460	519	529
Mississippi	621	741	842	848	818	652	642	551	529	593	658	632
Florida	213	229	224	222	211	165	176	205	202	212	226	237
Indiana	717	798	887	809	757	709	645	529	516	626	736	687
Total, 11 areas	14,976	14,132	13,773	12,467	11,574	9,965	10,063	9,220	9,363	10,172	11,227	11,812
						(b) 1953						
Conn. 1/	461	499	487	483	486	481	433					
Del-Mar-Va	3,296	2,812	3,087	3,133	2,957	2,799	2,772					
Shen. Valley	815	872	1,013	1,009	912	965	883					
N. Car. (Cent-West)	970	1,008	1,083	1,111	1,142	1,093	1,147					
Georgia	2,315	2,554	2,751	2,765	2,783	2,666	2,409					
Arkansas	998	1,007	1,055	1,102	1,072	1,044	842					
Texas	1,238	1,390	1,450	1,551	1,505	1,409	1,249					
Alabama	513	586	695	668	689	669	525					
Mississippi	709	780	845	863	854	813	616					
Florida	222	236	231	237	205	192	185					
Indiana	719	769	861	829	808	780	675					
Total, 11 areas	12,132	12,417	13,558	14,684	13,413	12,911	11,737					
Oregon	92	101	110	112	126	118	2/114					
Maine	544	499	523	579	602	587	574					
California	987	1,188	1,219	1,269	1,223	1,100	961					

1/ Includes W. Connecticut.

2/ 3 weeks only.

Table 10.- Monthly poult production, United States and Shenandoah Valley, March-July, 1951 to date

Year and month to which report applies	Percentage change from a year earlier						
	United States				Shenandoah Valley		
	Turkey eggs in incubators at beginning of month	Poult output For the month	Poult output Cumulative for season	Turkeys raised for the year	Turkey eggs in incubators at beginning of month	Poult output For the month	Poult output Cumulative for season
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1953							
March	-19	-13	-19		-32	-31	-44
April	-10	-15	-17		-27	-21	-37
May	- 7	-13	-16		-18	-12	-32
June	- 3	0	-13		7	13	-26
July	3	---	---		16		
1952				15			
March	30	27	34		65	57	198
April	40	12	22		35	21	108
May	10	6	16		34	29	83
June	- 2	0	13		14	9	67
July	12	---	---		14	9	60
1951							
March	16	5	6	20	19	21	59
April	0	6	6		39	53	56
May	16	7	6		53	51	54
June	48	32	10		61	65	57
July	38	---	---		138	146	63

Table 11.- Turkeys: Prices per pound for various types, selected dates, November 1952 to date

Item	1952					1953 1/			
	Nov. 14	Dec. 15	Jan. 15	Feb. 16	Mar. 16	Apr. 15	May 15	June 15	July 15
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents		
U. S. average received by farmers at mid-month (live)	33.7	34.6	33.6	33.3	33.6	33.3	32.5	31.7	32.3
Small turkeys:									
Shenandoah Valley, Va. and W. Va., at farm, live	37-38	40-41	41-42	41½-42	42-43	37-39	38-39	35-35½	31-32
San Joaquin Valley, Calif., at ranch, live	33½	33-33½	34½	---	---	36	2/32	31-32	32
New York City,									
New York dressed 3/	47½-48	51-52	53-54	53½-54	54½-55	49-50	46½-47	43½-45	42-42½
Eviscerated 4/	61-64	63-65	64-65	64-67	64-67	65-67	65-67	58-60	55-58
Large turkeys-toms									
San Joaquin Valley, Calif., at ranch, live	29-30	30-30½	28½-30	---	---	27-29	29-29½	33	29-30
New York City,									
New York dressed									
under 20 pounds	42-43	45-46	40½-41	40½-41	40½-41	41½-42	44-45	45-45½	5/47-47½
26 pounds and up	41-42	43-43½	44½-45	45½-46	43½-44½	47-47½	48½-49	48½-49	48-49½
Eviscerated									
under 20 pounds	54-57	55-57½	52-54	52-54	50-53	50-52½	52½-54	52-54	53-54
24 pounds and up	54-58	53½-57	53-56	54-56½	53-55	54-57½	56½-58	56-60	56-60

1/ Quotation on given date, or first available quotation thereafter.
2/ Heavy-type fryers.
3/ Ice packed.
4/ Ready to cook.
5/ 22-24 lbs.

Table 12.- Turkeys: First of month U. S. storage stocks, monthly, 1945 to date; weekly, 35 cities January 10, 1953 to date

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
					(a) Monthly, U. S.							
1945	73	74	63	46	33	29	27	21	18	27	43	78
1946	108	125	135	124	107	97	79	63	55	45	84	117
1947	128	140	126	109	95	86	72	59	45	39	65	86
1948	83	83	70	55	41	33	27	19	13	15	34	47
1949	51	55	51	44	36	33	29	21	21	35	76	107
1950	127	133	129	113	93	77	64	47	37	43	77	108
1951	110	117	101	80	60	48	39	30	25	42	83	109
1952	107	116	107	93	72	63	56	46	44	71	142	158
1953	147	143	117	92	72	60	52					
					(b) Weekly, 35 cities							
1953 1/												
First	---	93	77	62	48	38	32					
Second	92	89	74	58	46	38	31					
Third	95	83	71	54	44	36	29					
Fourth	95	79	66	51	42	34	26					
Fifth	94				39							

1/ Holdings on successive Saturdays of given month.

Table 13.- Turkeys: October-December average prices received by farmers and related factors, 1945 to date

Year	Oct. 1 storage stocks of turkey	Turkeys raised in given year	Price received by farmers for turkey, per pound, October-December average		Index of prices received by farmers (1935-39 =100)	Percentage of previous year 2/		
			Reported average	Price in 1935-39 dollars 1/		Oct. 1 stocks	Turkeys raised	Deflated price
	Mil.lb.	Mil.	Dol.	Dol.		Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
1945	27	43	.330	.171	193	121	122	93
1946	45	40	.372	.170	219	166	94	99
1947	39	34	.366	.142	257	87	85	84
1948	15	32	.467	.176	266	39	93	124
1949	35	41	.344	.148	233	234	131	84
1950	43	44	.328	.137	239	120	106	93
1951	42	52	.377	.134	282	97	120	98
1952	71	60	.337	.125	269	170	115	93

1/ Actual price deflated by index of prices received for all farm products.
2/ Computed from unrounded data.

Parity Prices for Eggs

Table 14 lists the seasonal adjustment factors to be used for converting monthly prices received by farmers for eggs to a percentage of parity, through June 1954. With no Government price program for eggs, the egg price as a percentage of parity is of only incidental interest to producer and trade groups, but it should be observed that at some time within the next 6 months the basis for computing parity for eggs is likely to change in accord with the provisions of the Agricultural Acts of 1948 and 1949. The change will occur when the transitional parity figure for eggs becomes lower than the modernized parity. The method of computation for both parities is specified in the earlier Act.

Transitional parity for eggs in July was higher (by less than 2 percent) than modernized parity, and therefore the modernized parity for eggs is not yet applicable. But in January 1954 there will be an automatic 5 percentage point decline in the basis for computing transitional parity, independent of changes which may meanwhile occur in the indexes of prices paid by farmers. At that time, if not before, transitional parity for eggs is likely to fall below the figure for the modernized parity.

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"In 1945, 3-pound chickens were produced in 12 weeks on 13.5 pounds of feed per chicken; in 1952, in 10 weeks on 8.25 pounds of feed per chicken. As a result of this change and a similar change in turkey production, chicken and turkey have changed from luxuries to staple foods."

H. R. Bird in The Scientific Monthly, October 1952.

Table 14.- Eggs: Parity prices and factors involved in parity price computations by months, January 1952 to date with seasonal adjustment factors to June 1954

Month and year	(1) Index of prices paid by farmers (1910-14=100) 1/	(2) Parity price per dozen 2/	(3) Seasonal adjustment factor	(4) U.S. average price per dozen equal to 100 percent of parity 3/	(5) Price received by farmers Per dozen	(6) Price received by farmers As a percentage of parity
		Cents	Percent	Cents	Cents	Percent
1952						
Jan.	278	50.7	99	50.2	40.5	81
Feb	279	50.8	87	44.2	34.7	79
Mar.	278	50.8	87	44.2	34.0	77
Apr.	278	50.7	87	44.1	35.2	80
May	278	50.7	87	44.1	34.2	78
June	278	50.7	90	45.6	35.7	78
July	277	50.7	97	49.2	43.3	88
Aug.	278	50.8	103	52.3	48.2	92
Sept.	278	50.8	112	56.9	48.7	86
Oct.	277	50.7	117	59.3	50.3	85
Nov.	276	50.4	117	59.0	51.9	88
Dec.	276	50.2	117	58.7	46.6	79
1953						
Jan.	276	47.4	96	45.5	45.8	101
Feb.	273	47.0	87	40.9	42.0	103
Mar.	275	47.3	87	41.2	44.7	109
Apr.	276	47.4	87	41.2	45.5	110
May	275	47.3	89	42.1	45.9	109
June	275	47.1	91	42.9	45.7	107
July	276	47.4	99	46.9	47.7	102
Aug.			107			
Sept.			113			
Oct.			117			
Nov.			117			
Dec.			113			
1954						
Jan.			95			
Feb.			87			
Mar.			87			
Apr.			87			
May			88			
June			90			

1/ Through 1952, the appropriate index is that of prices paid, including interest and taxes. Later in 1953 or in 1954 the modernized parity computation will supersede the present transitional parity for eggs, and at that time the appropriate index will be that of prices paid including interest, taxes, and wage rates. 2/ In 1952, Index of Prices Paid times Base Price (21.5 cents per dozen) divided by 100 minus 15 percent on account of transitional parity. So far (through July) in 1953, same formula except minus 20 percent on account of an additional year transpiring in the transitional parity sequence. Later in 1953, or in 1954, transitional parity for eggs is likely to be superseded by modernized parity, which will have a different base price: see text. 3/ Column (2) multiplied by column (3).

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